

can save a lot of money for the airlines because they can be more fuel efficient, instead of the present step system—if you own an airliner and you are going into an airport, you are going to go through a series of steps. Air traffic control is going to tell you to descend to such-and-such at such-and-such heading, and you are going to go there. All of this continuous conversation is going on and having to be acknowledged by the cockpit crew until they tell you to descend to the next step down.

What the new Next Generation system will do is it will eliminate that step system because there will be a continuous feed. It will eliminate a lot of the human conversation, some of which gets misunderstood, because all of that continuous communication will be between the air traffic controller and the aircraft via communication of satellite. As a result, they will be able to give an aircraft a direct route—not through steps, not all that conversation—of descent into the airport, saving a lot of potential mistakes in human communication as well as saving a lot of fuel instead of having to power up and power down as the aircraft goes through each of those steps. Implementing the Next Generation air traffic control modernization is going to be just one of the many transportation policy challenges that we will face and that we are developing and that we have already implemented on a trial basis in a couple of airports and in some airplanes.

The Department of Transportation also plays a critical role in ensuring vehicle safety through its National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. And, of course, you have been reading the stories there—brakes that don't work, ignition switches that accidentally turn off when jostled by key chains, and now deadly airbag failures that cause the steering wheel containing an airbag to be a lethal weapon because it is faulty and it shreds metal in the explosion. We have had five deaths in this country alone that have already been reported.

So these nominees are assuming extremely important roles in the U.S. Government. I think the way Senator THUNE has handled these nominees as our chairman in the Commerce Committee has been admirable, and I thank him for the bipartisanship he has shown. We commend to the Senate these two nominees who will be voted on at 5:30.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, will the kind Senator from Iowa yield for one request? I neglected to say something earlier.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Iowa. He is very kind.

Our former colleague, Senator Landrieu, is in the Gallery in order to see

the confirmation vote of Carlos Monje, who is from her State of Louisiana.

I thank the Senator from Iowa.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY are printed in today's RECORD during consideration of S. 178.)

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield back all of our remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON MONJE NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question occurs on the Monje nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Carlos A. Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Durbin	McConnell
Ayotte	Enzi	Menendez
Baldwin	Ernst	Merkley
Barrasso	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bennet	Fischer	Moran
Blumenthal	Franken	Murkowski
Blunt	Gardner	Murphy
Booker	Gillibrand	Murray
Boozman	Grassley	Nelson
Boxer	Hatch	Paul
Brown	Heinrich	Perdue
Burr	Heitkamp	Peters
Cantwell	Heller	Portman
Capito	Hirono	Reed
Cardin	Hoeven	Reid
Carper	Inhofe	Risch
Casey	Isakson	Roberts
Cassidy	Johnson	Rounds
Coats	Kaine	Rubio
Cochran	King	Sasse
Collins	Klobuchar	Schatz
Coons	Lankford	Schumer
Corker	Leahy	Scott
Cornyn	Lee	Sessions
Cotton	Manchin	Shaheen
Crapo	Markey	Shelby
Daines	McCain	Stabenow
Donnelly	McCaskill	Sullivan

Tester	Udall	Wicker
Thune	Warner	Wyden
Tillis	Warren	
Toomey	Whitehouse	

NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Graham	Sanders
Flake	Kirk	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BROWN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Manson K. Brown, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL COLEGROVE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize a great Kentuckian who has recently received a great honor. Dr. Michael Colegrove, who has been employed with the University of the Cumberlands in various capacities over the last 40 years and is currently the vice president for student services and the director of leadership studies, recently received the Tri-County 2015 Leader of the Year award from the Leadership Tri-County organization in Kentucky.

Leadership Tri-County focuses on civic, business, and community leadership in Laurel, Knox, and Whitley Counties in southeastern Kentucky. A nonprofit organization founded in 1987, it identifies potential, emerging, and current leaders from the three counties and nurtures their continued development.

Dr. Colegrove graduated from Cumberland College, currently known as the University of the Cumberlands, in 1971. In addition to working for the school for 40 years, he spent 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and retired with the rank of colonel in 2003. Dr. Colegrove earned a master of arts from Eastern Kentucky University and a doctor of philosophy from Vanderbilt University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. War College.